

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for his courtesy in discussing the Office Action with Applicants' representative on February 4, 2004, as well as his cooperation to discuss his rejections on other occasions. Applicants would like the Examiner to kindly consider the following remarks which Applicants submit as the reasons why the present invention is quite different than that disclosed in the cited art. Should the Examiner disagree with these remarks after his careful consideration and not pass the application to issue, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide more detail as to the predetermined time "period" of Nakamura et al., and how it relates to the recited *one on/off cycle* of the present invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner again rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,321,478). The Examiner states in this Office Action that upon further inspection of the previously cited art, he finds that the Applicants' amendments do not overcome Nakamura et al. Specifically, the Examiner states that Nakamura et al. clearly teaches "[t]he electric power reduction unit sets the predetermined time period variable in accordance with frequency of image forming operations discriminated by the discriminating unit." Thus, the Examiner concludes that "there is inherent to the invention, an on/off control signal having a period that expresses an amount of time required for one on/off cycle." The Examiner refers to the Abstract and col. 1., lines 29-47 of Nakamura et al. as providing this inherency.

In previous correspondence with the USPTO, Applicants argued that Nakamura et al. fail to disclose the period of on/off control as recited in the claims. Applicants argued that each period shown in Nakamura et al. (citing Figure 16) is a duration of time from a completion of a warm-up operation or a previous completion of a printing mode to the next printing mode, rather than the period of on/off control as recited in the claims of the present application.

Applicants respectfully maintain this argument even in light of the Examiner's new citations of the "period" disclosed in the Nakamura et al. Abstract. That is, the "period" disclosed in the Nakamura et al. Abstract is a predetermined time period indicative of the time when an image forming signal is *not* input into the apparatus. The Examiner points out, the electric power reduction unit of Nakamura et al. sets the predetermined time period variably in accordance with frequency of image forming operations.

As such, Applicants submit that the Nakamura et al. "period" expresses an amount of time from a completion of a warm-up operation or a previous completion of a printing mode to the next printing mode. On the other hand, in the present invention, as recited in the claims, the period "expresses an amount of time required for one on/off cycle." An amount of time between printing modes as disclosed in Nakamura et al. (both the Abstract and Figure 16) is completely opposite from an amount of time required for one on/off cycle, based on our understanding. That is, to relate the Nakamura et al. "period" to the present invention, the Nakamura et al. "period" is an amount of time required for one off cycle. Accordingly, Applicants maintain that invention recited in claims 1-4 distinguishes over Nakamura et al.

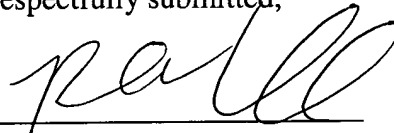
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application 09/899,530

Attorney Docket No. Q64665

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Kimble
Registration No. 44,186

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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